Department of State

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FOR: IOP/M, IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TW
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY. MAJOR PAPERS SEPTEMBER 19 EDITORIALLY SUPPORTED PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO'S INTERVIEW STATEMENTS AS QUOTED BY UPI THAT ROC WILL NOT PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NEEDS ONLY MORAL AND MATERIAL U.S. SUPPORT. PAPERS, HOWEVER, NOTED HIS COMMENTS THAT ROC HAS NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION CAPABILITY AS WELL AS SUFFICIENT CONVENTIONAL FORCES TO DEFEND TAIWAN. END SUMMARY.

2. KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (270,000) SAID CHIANG'S DECISION BASED ON MORAL COURAGE, WITH A HOPE THAT THE WORLD WILL EVENTUALLY REACH A GOAL OF NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 5/21/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

3. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS, WHICH OFTEN REFLECTS OFFICIAL THINKING, SAID: "REJECTION OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITY FOR DESTRUCTION WILL WIN WIDESPREAD APPROVAL IN THE UNITED STATES, JAPAN AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, PREMIER CHIANG HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THE DEFENDERS OF TAIWAN ARE NOT SITTING DUCKS WAITING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE COMMUNIST HUNTERS. THIS KIND OF 'BEST FOOT FORWARD' PUBLICITY FOR OUR COUNTRY WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD RIGHTING THE IMBALANCE OF MAINLAND-TAIWAN REPORTING IN THE MASS COMMUNICATIONS OF THE FREE WORLD."

4. CHINA TIMES (350,000), COMMENTING ON CHIANG'S STATEMENT THAT "IT WAS NOT WISE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SEND TROOPS TO FIGHT IN ASIA," SAID THIS IS TRUE BECAUSE EVEN A ONE-MILLION MAN FORCE WOULDN'T HELP IF A ASIAN COUNTRY LACKED A DEFENSIBLE SYSTEM AND LOST HEART IN DEFENDING ITSELF. MORAL SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE ROC. THAT MEANS THE U.S. SHOULD STICK TO ITS TREATY COMMITMENTS TO THE ROC AND NOT DO ANYTHING THAT WILL STABILIZE THE TYRANNICAL MAOIST RULE ON THE MAINLAND.

5. THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE YOUTH WARRIOR DAILY NEWS (80,000) SAID CHIANG'S REMARKS DO NOT MEAN THAT U.S. SHOULD PULL BACK TROOPS FROM ASIA AND ABANDON TREATY COMMITMENTS, THUS INDUCING COMMUNIST HUNGER FOR AGGRESSION. RATHER IT MEANS THE U.S. SHOULD PROVIDE "MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT" TO COUNTRIES THAT FACE COMMUNIST AGGRESSION, INSTEAD OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN ALL WARS.

6. UNITED DAILY NEWS (380,000) SAID CHIANG'S REMARKS REPRESENTED OPEN CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS INTERNATIONAL SPECULATION ON ROC NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY, ADDING THAT REMARKS: (1) DEMONSTRATE ROC'S SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT WITH ABILITY TO JOIN "INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR CLUB," (2) UNDERLINES BACKWARDNESS OF COMMUNIST CHINESE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR PROBLEMS IN DEVELOPING ELEMENTARY

NUCLEAR WEAPONS (3) ILLUSTRATES DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROC'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY BASED ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VERSUS MAOIST LACK OF REGARD FOR THE PEOPLE'S WELFARE. (4) ILLUSTRATES HOLLOW RATTLING OF ROTTEN NUCLEAR PROPAGANDA (5) STRESSES FACT THAT ROC HAS CAPABILITY BUT DOES NOT WANT USE IT FOR SAKE HUMAN BEINGS AND WORLD CIVILIZATION AND (6) REITERATES THAT ROC'S NATIONAL RECOVERY TASK INVOLVES STRUGGLE OF BENEVOLENCE AGAINST DESPOTISM.
CLARKE